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Occupational Employment and Wages in Roanoke – May 2016

Workers in the Roanoke Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of \$20.98 in May 2016, 12 percent below the nationwide average of \$23.86, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Sheila Watkins, the Bureau's regional commissioner, noted that, after testing for statistical significance, wages in the local area were significantly lower than their respective national averages in 17 of the 22 major occupational groups, including arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media; legal; and construction and extraction.

When compared to the nationwide distribution, local employment shares were significantly higher in 6 of the 22 occupational groups including health care practitioners and technical and transportation and material moving. Conversely, 10 groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation including management; computer and mathematical; and food preparation and serving related. (See [Table A](#) and box note at end of release.)

Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and Roanoke Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2016

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment			Mean hourly wage			
	United States	Roanoke		United States	Roanoke		Percent difference (1)
Total, all occupations	100.0	100.0		\$23.86	\$20.98	*	-12
Management	5.1	3.3	*	56.74	51.68	*	-9
Business and financial operations	5.2	4.5	*	36.09	31.69	*	-12
Computer and mathematical	3.0	1.9	*	42.25	34.87	*	-17
Architecture and engineering	1.8	1.4	*	40.53	34.50	*	-15
Life, physical, and social science	0.8	0.5	*	35.06	31.50	*	-10
Community and social service	1.4	1.9	*	22.69	21.44	*	-6
Legal	0.8	0.6	*	50.95	37.64	*	-26
Education, training, and library	6.2	5.2		26.21	24.17		-8
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	1.4	1.0	*	28.07	19.86	*	-29
Healthcare practitioners and technical	5.9	8.0	*	38.06	38.70		2
Healthcare support	2.9	3.5	*	14.65	13.82	*	-6
Protective service	2.4	3.0		22.03	17.63	*	-20
Food preparation and serving related	9.2	8.5	*	11.47	10.12	*	-12
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	3.2	2.9		13.47	11.81	*	-12
Personal care and service	3.2	2.8	*	12.74	12.07		-5
Sales and related	10.4	10.7		19.50	17.97	*	-8
Office and administrative support	15.7	16.5	*	17.91	16.26	*	-9
Farming, fishing, and forestry	0.3	0.1	*	13.37	14.57		9
Construction and extraction	4.0	4.3		23.51	18.66	*	-21

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and Roanoke Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2016 - Continued

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment			Mean hourly wage			
	United States	Roanoke		United States	Roanoke		Percent difference (1)
Installation, maintenance, and repair	3.9	4.6	*	22.45	20.50	*	-9
Production	6.5	7.3		17.88	16.65	*	-7
Transportation and material moving	6.9	7.8	*	17.34	16.64		-4

Footnotes:

(1) A positive percent difference measures how much the mean wage in the Roanoke Metropolitan Statistical Area is above the national mean wage, while a negative difference reflects a lower wage.

* The percent share of employment or mean hourly wage for this area is significantly different from the national average of all areas at the 90-percent confidence level.

One occupational group—office and administrative support—was chosen to illustrate the diversity of data available for any of the 22 major occupational categories. Roanoke had 25,220 jobs in the office and administrative group, accounting for 16.5 percent of local area employment, significantly larger than the 15.7-percent share nationally. The average hourly wage for this occupational group locally was \$16.26, significantly lower than the national average of \$17.91.

With employment of 3,860, general office clerks was the largest occupation within the office and administrative support group, followed by customer service representatives (3,010). Among the higher-paying jobs were first-line supervisors of office and administrative support workers with a mean hourly wage of \$26.08 and postal service mail carriers with a wage of \$24.33. At the lower end of the wage scale were hotel, motel, and resort desk clerks (\$9.56) and stock clerks and order fillers (\$11.96). (Detailed occupational data for office and administrative support are presented in [table 1](#); for a complete listing of detailed occupations available go to www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_40220.htm.)

Location quotients allow us to explore the occupational make-up of a metropolitan area by comparing the composition of jobs in an area relative to the national average. (See [table 1](#).) For example, a location quotient of 2.0 indicates that an occupation accounts for twice the share of employment in the area as it does nationally. In the Roanoke area, above-average concentrations of employment were found in several of the occupations within the office and administrative support group. For instance, insurance claims and policy processing clerks were employed at 2.6 times the national rate in Roanoke, and loan interviewers and clerks at 3.0 times the U.S. average. On the other hand, tellers had a location quotient of 1.0 in Roanoke, indicating that this particular occupation's local and national employment shares were similar.

These statistics are from the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) survey, a federal-state cooperative program between BLS and State Workforce Agencies, in this case, the Virginia Employment Commission.

Note on Occupational Employment Statistics Data

A value that is statistically different from another does not necessarily mean that the difference has economic or practical significance. Statistical significance is concerned with the ability to make confident statements about a universe based on a sample. It is entirely possible that a large difference between two values is not significantly different statistically, while a small difference is, since both the size and heterogeneity of the sample affect the relative error of the data being tested.

Technical Note

The Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) survey is a semiannual mail survey measuring occupational employment and wage rates for wage and salary workers in nonfarm establishments in the United States. The OES program produces employment and wage estimates for over 800 occupations for all industries combined in the nation; the 50 states and the District of Columbia; 432 metropolitan areas and divisions; 167 nonmetropolitan areas; and Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. National estimates are also available by industry for NAICS sectors, 3-, 4-, and selected 5- and 6-digit industries, and by ownership across all industries and for schools and hospitals. OES data are available at www.bls.gov/oes/tables.htm.

OES estimates are constructed from a sample of about 1.2 million establishments. Forms are mailed to approximately 200,000 sampled establishments in May and November each year. The May 2016 estimates are based on responses from six semiannual panels collected over a 3-year period: May 2016, November 2015, May 2015, November 2014, May 2014, and November 2013. The overall national response rate for the six panels, based on the 50 states and the District of Columbia, is 73 percent based on establishments and 69 percent based on weighted sampled employment. The unweighted employment of sampled establishments across all six semiannual panels represents approximately 58 percent of total national employment. The sample in the Roanoke, Va. Metropolitan Statistical Area included 1,833 establishments with a response rate of 74 percent. For more information about OES concepts and methodology, go to www.bls.gov/news.release/ocwage.tn.htm.

The May 2016 OES estimates are based on the 2010 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system and the 2012 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). Information about the 2010 SOC is available on the BLS website at www.bls.gov/soc and information about the 2012 NAICS is available at www.bls.gov/bls/naics.htm.

Metropolitan area definitions

The substate area data published in this release reflect the standards and definitions established by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget.

The **Roanoke, Va. Metropolitan Statistical Area** includes Botetourt, Craig, Franklin, and Roanoke Counties and Roanoke and Salem Cities in Virginia.

Additional information

OES data are available on our regional web page at www.bls.gov/regions/mid-atlantic. Answers to frequently asked questions about the OES data are available at www.bls.gov/oes/oes_ques.htm. Detailed technical information about the OES survey is available in our Survey Methods and Reliability Statement on the BLS website at www.bls.gov/oes/current/methods_statement.pdf.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request – Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

Table 1. Employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics survey, by occupation, Roanoke Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2016

Occupation ⁽¹⁾	Employment ⁽²⁾		Mean wage	
	Level	Location quotient ⁽³⁾	Hourly	Annual ⁽⁴⁾
Office and administrative support occupations.....	25,220	1.1	\$16.26	\$33,820
First-line supervisors of office and administrative support workers.....	1,590	1.0	26.08	54,240
Switchboard operators, including answering service ...	60	0.6	12.10	25,170
Bill and account collectors.....	490	1.5	16.11	33,510
Billing and posting clerks.....	610	1.2	16.59	34,510
Bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks.....	1,820	1.1	17.25	35,890
Payroll and timekeeping clerks.....	190	1.1	19.13	39,790
Procurement clerks.....	80	1.1	18.92	39,360
Tellers.....	520	1.0	14.52	30,210
Brokerage clerks.....	80	1.2	20.68	43,010
Court, municipal, and license clerks.....	110	0.8	16.86	35,070
Credit authorizers, checkers, and clerks.....	50	1.2	15.48	32,190
Customer service representatives.....	3,010	1.0	15.23	31,670
Eligibility interviewers, government programs.....	270	1.8	19.49	40,540
File clerks.....	100	0.7	11.01	22,900
Hotel, motel, and resort desk clerks.....	300	1.1	9.56	19,890
Interviewers, except eligibility and loan.....	250	1.2	15.14	31,490
Library assistants, clerical.....	80	0.7	10.92	22,720
Loan interviewers and clerks.....	740	3.0	17.43	36,250
New accounts clerks.....	90	1.9	18.41	38,300
Order clerks.....	270	1.4	14.11	29,350
Human resources assistants, except payroll and timekeeping.....	220	1.5	14.31	29,760
Receptionists and information clerks.....	1,310	1.2	11.97	24,890
Information and record clerks, all other.....	210	1.1	18.19	37,840
Police, fire, and ambulance dispatchers.....	150	1.4	18.27	38,000
Dispatchers, except police, fire, and ambulance.....	210	1.0	16.62	34,570
Meter readers, utilities.....	40	1.0	16.03	33,350
Postal service clerks.....	70	0.8	23.28	48,420
Postal service mail carriers.....	350	1.0	24.33	50,610
Postal service mail sorters, processors, and processing machine operators.....	260	2.2	23.47	48,820
Production, planning, and expediting clerks.....	350	1.0	21.79	45,330
Shipping, receiving, and traffic clerks.....	710	1.0	14.96	31,130
Stock clerks and order fillers.....	2,540	1.2	11.96	24,890
Weighers, measurers, checkers, and samplers, recordkeeping.....	40	0.6	17.57	36,540
Executive secretaries and executive administrative assistants.....	370	0.5	24.11	50,150
Legal secretaries.....	160	0.8	18.02	37,480
Medical secretaries.....	200	0.3	16.21	33,710
Secretaries and administrative assistants, except legal, medical, and executive.....	2,110	0.8	15.71	32,670
Data entry keyers.....	140	0.7	13.72	28,540
Insurance claims and policy processing clerks.....	790	2.6	19.72	41,020
Mail clerks and mail machine operators, except postal service.....	90	0.9	12.04	25,050
Office clerks, general.....	3,860	1.2	14.54	30,240
Office and administrative support workers, all other	170	0.7	16.98	35,310

Footnotes:

(1) For a complete listing of all detailed occupations in the Roanoke MSA, see www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_40220.htm

(2) Estimates for detailed occupations do not sum to the totals because the totals include occupations not shown separately. Estimates do not include self-employed workers.

(3) The location quotient is the ratio of the area concentration of occupational employment to the national average concentration. A location quotient greater than one indicates the occupation has a higher share of employment than average, and a location quotient less than one indicates the

occupation is less prevalent in the area than average.

(4) Annual wages have been calculated by multiplying the hourly mean wage by a "year-round, full-time" hours figure of 2,080 hours; for those occupations where there is not an hourly mean wage published, the annual wage has been directly calculated from the reported survey data.